

Remarks

Claims 1-22 were pending in the application. Claims 11, 12, and 20 were rejected. Claim 21 was merely objected to, and claims 1-10, 13-19, and 22 were allowed. By the foregoing amendment, claim 12 is canceled, claims 11, 20, and 21 are amended, and claim 23 is added. No new matter is presented.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-10, 13-19, 21, and 22.

Claim 21 has been represented in independent form as new claim 23.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 11 and 12 were rejected as being anticipated by Gonsor et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5827047). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claims 11, 12, and 20 were rejected as being anticipated by Barcza (U.S. Patent No. 5513955). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Regarding claim 20, the examiner helpfully identified the asserted channel as being "between flanges 28" of Barcza. Office action, Page 3, line 1. Applicant submits that, although those flanges clearly define a channel, that channel is not defined by the combination of a damper member main body and a portion inboard thereof as is claimed. For further clarification, this is now "radially inboard..." and the movement identified is now "radially inward" for which support is found in claim 4. The portion has also been identified as a "tongue" from allowable dependent claim 21. The two Barcza flanges are not a main body and a tongue radially inboard thereof.

Claim 11 has been amended to identify the claim 1 identification of "first and second damping surfaces angled relative to each other so as to provide a wedging engagement

between the first and second blades." As discussed in the prior amendment, such a means is not suggested by Barcza or Gonsor et al.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-11 and 13-23 are in condition for allowance. Please charge any fees or deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account of record.

Respectfully submitted,

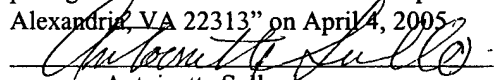
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Date: April 4, 2005

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on April 4, 2005.


Antoinette Sullo

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